2387. [*Transferred to 29th May, 1990*].

World Bank loans for National Highways

2388. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of projects for the construction/strengthening/widening of National Highways for which the World Bank has extended loans to India;

(b) whether these projects are being executed on schedule;

(c) if not, what is the extent of delays and the amounts paid as commitment charges which is the indirect penalty for inefficiency in execution; and

(d) what steps are being teken to ensure that the World Bank aided National Highway projects are implemented on schedule, and without cost over-runs in the future ?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) A statement indicating the details of the projects is enclosed. [*See* Appendix CLIV, Annexure No. 109]

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) A number of factors has led to delays in the execution of these projects. These include: litigation; slow mobilisation of men; materials and machinery by the contractors; delays in import of sophisticated machinery for road construction by contractors due to procedural formalities; non-performance by he contractors necessitating initiation of the proceedings for re-bidding of the contractors etc. A sum of Rs. 7.44 crores has been paid upto 1989-90 a commitment charges. Several steps have been taken to improve performance on the above-referred projects. These include expulsion of non-performing contractors followed by re-award of work, grant of additional mobilisation advance etc. In addition, for future projects under consideration, steps have been taken to ensure better performance, by increasing the package sizes to attract more competent contractors, stricter criteria for prequalification of contractors etc.

Deaths in Police Custody

2389. SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases involving death of the persons in police lock-up or police custody in Delhi and other Union Territories and States during the year 1989 and so far in 1990;

(b) the number and details of policemen and officers punished or proceeded against in connection therewith; and

(c) what steps are being taken to prevent such death ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SUBODH KANT SAHAY) : (a) to (c) No data relating to number of cases involving death of the persons in police lock-up or police custody is compiled on All India basis, as complaints against police and other related criminal matters are primarily within the purview of the State Govts. The Govt. of India have issued guidelines to the State Governments from time to time to ensure that the police force behave always in a humane manner and that alleged cases of police excesses should be taken serious note of and dealt with firmly Specific complaints of this nature against the police are looked into by the Courts and the State Governments appropriately.